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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

No. :

10/659,399

Confirmation No. 3761

Applicant:

Hiromitsu TAKAHASHI et al.

Filed

September 11, 2003

TC/A.U. :

2872

Examiner :

Unknown

Dkt. No. :

IPE-023

Cust. No. :

20374

<u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)</u>

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 9, 2003

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each document is attached.

No fee or statement is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the last of (1) issuance of a first official action on the merits and (2) expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/659,399 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

PATENT

Documents UA to UD are in the English language. Therefore, no concise explanation of the relevance of the documents is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

Please note that Documents UA to UC were cited in the International Search Report of the parent application, PCT/JP02/02381. A copy of the Search Report is submitted herewith.

Furthermore, please note that Document UD is described in the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 10, paragraph [0005], of the specification of the present invention.

Document FA is not in the English language. However, the concise explanation of the relevance of the document required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied by submission of an English translation of pertinent portions thereof.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 111833 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK

Keiko Tanaka Kubovcik Reg. No. 40,428

Atty. Case No. IPE-023 The Farragut Building U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/659,399 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

PATENT

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Attachments: PTO-1449

Five Documents

International Search Report

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INFO)RMA	TION DISCLOSURE S		Atty. Docket No. IPE-023			Serial No. 10/659,399		
		PTO-1449		Applicant: Hiromitsu TAKAHASHI et al.					
					Filing Date: September 11, 2003			Group: 2872	
			U.S. PATE	ENT DO	CUMENTS				
Examiner's Initial		Document No.	Date		Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If appropriate	
	UA	6,297,908 B1	10/02/01	Suga		359	599		
	UB	2001/0030638A1	10/18/01	Kashi	ma	345	102	03/05/98	
	UC	6,219,119 B1	04/17/01	Nakai		349	113		
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Examiner:	Date Considered:

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P:\12-03\ipe-023-pto-1449.wpd Filed: December 9, 2003